From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech, Presented by the Auto Alliance: No Sign of Major Cyberattacks or Election Interference in Midterms, DHS Says
Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 5:52:56 AM

By Edward Graham

Top Stories

- U.S. security officials and social media firms said they saw a limited amount of misinformation targeting the midterm elections, but did not observe any significant cyberattacks or election interference efforts. Homeland Security Department Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said during a press conference that officials had seen "no indication of compromise to our nation's election infrastructure" that would have prevented votes from being cast or interfered with vote tallies or counts. (The Wall Street Journal)

- The United Kingdom's top data protection watchdog found that now-defunct political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica violated British law by improperly harvesting Facebook Inc. user data to help Donald Trump's 2016

presidential campaign, noting that the company would face a significant fine if not for the fact that it is already in bankruptcy. (The New York Times)

- Facebook said it removed more accounts from its social media platforms, in addition to 115 accounts it blocked over the weekend, for participating in coordinated inauthentic behavior in the run-up to the midterm elections. Facebook, which did not disclose the latest number of removed accounts, said a website claiming to be associated with Russia's Internet Research Agency published a list of Instagram accounts it supposedly created, and a spokesman added that the site has "now blocked the rest" of the accounts. (Reuters)

Chart Review

Facebook, Google Are Election Ad Winners Despite Meddling Outcry
Bloomberg

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

WEDNESDAY

FTC hearings on privacy, big data and competition	9 a.m.
FCBA CLE on Carpenter ruling and Fourth Amendment	12 p.m.

THURSDAY

FTC hearings on privacy, big data and competition	9 a.m.

Washington Post Live event on the promise of new technologies, how public policy can keep up with them and if the U.S. tech sector is positioned to compete globally	9 a.m.
Next Century Cities and Connecticut Office of Consumer Counsel's "Connected New England"	9 a.m.
Hudson Institute event on the intersection of space policy and the FCC	11:30 a.m.

FRIDAY

Free State Foundation book discussion, "A Reader on Net Neutrality and Restoring Internet Freedom"	11:45 a.m.

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General

Forget the Russians. On this Election Day, it's Americans peddling disinformation and hate speech.
Craig Timberg and Tony Romm, The Washington Post

Former FBI agent Clint Watts was among the first to ring the alarm bell about Russia's audacious disinformation campaign during the 2016 U.S. election. Two years later, as voters head to the polls in another hotly contested national election, Watts has more bad news.

Was Amazon's Headquarters Contest a Bait-and-Switch? Critics Say Yes
David Streitfeld, The New York Times

What a farce. That was one of the immediate reactions when word leaked out on Monday that Amazon's much-ballyhooed search for a second headquarters outside of Seattle would result in not one, but two new locations.

A Key Executive Is Leaving Microsoft
Jay Greene, The Wall Street Journal

Microsoft Corp., whose industry standing and financial fortunes have soared as it shed its Windows-first approach, is losing one of its key advocates of that change. Javier Soltero, who joined Microsoft after it bought his mobile email and calendar app maker, Acompli, in 2014, is leaving the software giant.

In Silicon Valley, Saudi Money Keeps Flowing to Startups Amid Backlash
Eliot Brown, The Wall Street Journal

Silicon Valley startups are continuing to negotiate deals with Saudi Arabia and take its capital from its partner SoftBank Group Corp., amid controversy over the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi that has clouded the kingdom's role as a major global technology investor. Two startups- View Inc., which makes light-adjustable glass, and Zume Inc., which uses robots to make pizza- disclosed investments over the past week totaling a combined $1.5 billion from SoftBank's Saudi-backed Vision Fund.

China's Xi calls for global cooperation to create 'fairer' internet
Cate Cadell, Reuters

China's President Xi Jinping called on Wednesday for greater global

cooperation in developing the internet and make it more "fair and equitable", as Beijing seeks to bolster its global role in shaping the web. The speech was read out on Xi's behalf at China's main internet conference in the northern city of Wuzhen, a tightly-controlled event organized by the cyber ministry that oversees the domestic internet and censors online content.

Dell Contacts DVMT Investors to Discuss Terms of Deal
Scott Deveau et al., Bloomberg

Dell Technologies Inc. has reached out to investors to determine what it would take to win their support for its plans to return to the public markets, a person familiar with the matter said. Shareholders, including activist investor Carl Icahn, have balked at the terms of Dell's proposed deal to take the technology giant public through a $21.7 billion deal involving a tracking stock.

Stocks Rally, Dollar Drops as U.S. Gridlock Looms: Markets Wrap
Samuel Potter, Bloomberg

U.S. equity futures jumped, the dollar dropped and Treasuries climbed as investors digested potential political gridlock in the wake of the American midterm elections. European stocks rallied and Asian shares were mixed.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

EU asks Disney to divest Lifetime and History channels in Europe to win approval for Fox deal
Meg James, Los Angeles Times

Walt Disney Co. must divest its stake in History, Lifetime, Crime + Investigation and Blaze television channels in Europe to win regulatory approval of its takeover of the 21st Century Fox entertainment assets. The European Union in Brussels said Tuesday that it had conditionally approved Disney's $71.3-billion acquisition of Fox's Hollywood studios and television channels - removing one of the primary hurdles that Disney must clear on its path to completing an acquisition that is expected to change the face of Hollywood.

AT&T-TW Appeal Panel Picked
John Eggerton, Broadcasting and Cable

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has apparently picked the three judges that will hear the Department of Justice appeal of the AT&T-Time Warner merger. According to PACER, the online court info service, which listed only initials, the panel will be "JWR (Judges Judith W. Rogers), RLW (Robert L. Wilkins) and DBS, which rather than a reference to AT&T's DirecTV, which is involved in the suit, but to Judge David B. Sentelle (a check of the court Web site confirmed that panel).

Telecom, Wireless and TV

Huawei, Still Big in Britain, Faces New Scrutiny
Stu Woo and Max Colchester, The Wall Street Journal

The U.K. government is reviewing the makeup of its telecommunications-equipment market-a move that executives say ratchets up scrutiny of China's Huawei Technologies Co. The government last month sent a letter to telecom firms, including cellular and internet providers, saying it would review whether the country was too reliant on a single hardware provider.

China's ties with Taiwan chip firms under scrutiny as U.S. trade war heats up
Jess Macy Yu and Yimou Lee, Reuters

Washington's decision to cut off U.S. supplies to a Chinese chip-maker spotlights mounting tensions over China's drive to be a global player in computer chips and the ways in which Taiwan companies are helping it get there. Shut out of major global semiconductor deals in recent years, China has been quietly strengthening cooperation with Taiwan chip firms by encouraging the transfer of chip-making expertise into the mainland.

SoftBank IPO Seeks $18 Billion From Retail Investors
Takahiko Hyuga, Bloomberg

SoftBank Group Corp. is seeking to raise a record 2 trillion yen ($18 billion) from Japanese individuals in the initial public offering of its mobile phone unit, targeting investors who often get no interest on their savings, said people familiar with the matter. Nomura Holdings Inc., a joint global coordinator, will sell the biggest part of the shares to the retail investors, part of an IPO that could raise about 3 trillion yen in total, said the people, asking not to be named

because the target is private.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

West Virginians abroad in 29 countries have voted by mobile device, in the biggest blockchain-based voting test ever
Brian Fung, The Washington Post

Nearly 140 West Virginians living abroad in 29 countries have cast their election ballots in an unprecedented pilot project that involves voting remotely by mobile device, according to state officials. The statewide pilot, which covers 24 of West Virginia's 55 counties, uses a mixture of smartphones, facial recognition and the same technology that underpins bitcoin - the blockchain - in an effort to create a large-scale and secure way for service members, Peace Corps volunteers or other Americans living overseas to participate in the midterm elections.

Facebook, Google tools reveal political ad removal data
Paresh Dave, Reuters

Public databases that shine a light on online political ads - launched by Facebook and Google before Tuesday's U.S. elections - offer the public the first broad view of how quickly the companies yank advertisements that break their rules. The databases also provided campaigns unprecedented insight into opponents' online marketing, enabling them to capitalize on weaknesses, political strategists told Reuters.

What algorithmic art can teach us about artificial intelligence
James Vincent, The Verge

We live in a world that's increasingly controlled by what might be called "the algorithmic gaze." As we cede more decision-making power to machines in domains like health care, transportation, and security, the world as seen by computers becomes the dominant reality.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

DHS Cyber Unit Fields False Alarms But No Hacks on Election Day

Aaron Boyd, Nextgov

As Americans exercise their hard-won right to choose their leaders, the Homeland Security Department is poised to chase down any potential cyberattack or compromise of election infrastructure-and debunk rumors, if necessary. Officials said they do not expect a real attack, but are ready to address rumors that could seriously affect turnout or undermine people's confidence in the results.

Tech companies offered free products to help secure the election. Now what?
Zaid Shoorbajee, CyberScoop

The unprecedented foreign hacking and misinformation campaigns that were reported around the 2016 U.S. election cast a cloak of doubt over the integrity of the country's democratic process. The threat sent government officials on the federal, state and local level scrambling to ensure that the country's voting machines, voter registration systems, pollbooks, results-reporting websites and other election technology is ready for the midterm elections.

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Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

When governments pump disinformation into their own elections
Editorial Board, The Washington Post

Americans were right to fret about Internet disinformation ahead of Tuesday's midterm elections, but citizens of other countries face an even graver threat: Their own governments are the manipulators. A Freedom House report on digital authoritarianism found that global Internet freedom declined for the eighth year in a row in 2018.

Russians Meddling in the Midterms? Here's the Data
Jonathon Morgan and Ryan Fox, The New York Times

Since the 2016 United States presidential election, which Russian operatives influenced through a coordinated campaign of disinformation on social media, platforms like Twitter and Facebook have taken steps to address the problem. Thousands of "sock puppet" personas with hundreds of thousands of followers have been taken down on Facebook, for example, and cannot easily be rebuilt.

A Warning From Seattle to Amazon's HQ2
Margaret O'Mara, The New York Times

The prune capital of America. That was the future Silicon Valley's greatest claim to fame in the 1920s, when it was a sleepy landscape of fruit orchards and farms far removed from the nation's industrial might.

Blockchain-based elections would be a disaster for democracy
Timothy B. Lee, Ars Technica

If you talk to experts on election security (I studied with several of them in graduate school) they'll tell you that we're nowhere close to being ready for online voting. "Mobile voting is a horrific idea," said election security expert Joe Hall when I asked him about a West Virginia experiment with blockchain-based mobile voting back in August.

Research Reports

Investigation into the use of data analytics in political campaigns
Information Commissioner's Office, United Kingdom

When we opened our investigation into the use of data analytics for political purposes in May 2017, we had little idea of what was to come. Eighteen months later, multiple jurisdictions are struggling to retain fundamental democratic principles in the face of opaque digital technologies.

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